

Parents Flag Edmonton

Newsletter

March 1994

Next Meeting Will Be :
Tuesday March 15, 1994
7:30 pm

For more information phone Lynne at [REDACTED]

NEW MEETING PLACE

Please note that we have moved to a new meeting place. There were concerns over security at our old location and our fears became reality when somebody entered the building and made off with our coffee money. Sue and Colin were able to provide us with a new meeting place located in the west end, so we would like to extend a gigantic THANK-YOU to Sue and Colin for their helpful effort. The new address is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
just buzz #104 to get in. A detailed map of how to get to the new location is included at the end of this newsletter. If you have any difficulties you may call Eren at [REDACTED]

GUEST SPEAKER

We will have Barbara MacLennan as our guest speaker this month. She is a pastor with the Metropolitan Community Church.

B-GLAD

March 14-18 will be bisexual gay lesbian awareness days on the University of Alberta campus. There will be many different events during the week that may be of interest. For more information call the Gays and Lesbians on Campus information line at [REDACTED]

NO PHONE COMMITTEE

We will no longer operate a phoning committee unless there is no newsletter for the month or if there is a change of dates.

STREET SAFETY 2

Everyone is responsible for their own safety. Taking charge of that, on city streets at night, can be a scary business, but the fear can be taken out of it by knowing a few easy to remember rules.

The first rule to remember is **WALK CONFIDENTLY**. That means, walk with your head up, look like you have a purpose. Look alert!

As a convicted pick pocket replied when asked how he picked his victims, "If they've got pace in their face, leave them alone." People who walk confidently, he meant, do not look like easy targets.

Bashers and muggers are looking for easy victims. They don't want anyone who looks like they might defend themselves or put up a struggle. They don't want to take any unnecessary risks. They don't want to be hurt. They don't want you if you look confident, if you look aware.

There is a theory that if you don't look like a victim you won't be one.

Being a victim is not a pleasant experience. Learn to avoid it by **WALKING CONFIDENTLY.**

COMING OUT: A VIGNETTE

Each coming out is a very unique human experience. This one reminds us there are tender surprises in an encounter with another human heart.

I sat Mom and Dad down in the kitchen and told them together. My Dad was wonderful. He said, "Kay, don't you think I knew that? You don't live to be as old as I am and not know those kind of things!" He went on to say he thought I was going to tell him in 1986 when I took him and Mom to see my therapist. I said I wanted to tell him then. I had told Mom at that time and she asked me not to tell him. He looked at her and said, "Why?" She responded, "You got so mad when Sis said she was going to move in with her boyfriend." I added that I was afraid that he would disown me if I told him. Dad said "Don't you remember what I said when we visited your therapist? -I don't love my kids 50% of the time or 60% of the time. I love my kids 100%. I love every

part of you Kay. You are my daughter; I couldn't disown you." Then he started to cry. Mom asked if he had a handkerchief. He said "No." And she got up out of her chair and went into their bedroom to get him one. It was very obvious to me how uncomfortable she was with his feelings.

He stood up and hugged me and kissed me. I asked, "If you knew, why didn't you tell me that you knew?" He answered, "It wasn't my place to tell you, it was your place to tell me when you were ready!" He went on to say that he thought homosexuality was God's way of keeping the earth from becoming overpopulated!

I felt angry with Mom for asking me not to tell him, as he really was better with the information than she was.

P-FLAG AUTHOR ERIC MARCUS SCORES

by James M. Pines

Is It A Choice? Answers to 300 of the most frequently asked questions about Gays and Lesbians. By Eric Marcus. Harper San Francisco (San Francisco 1993). Paperback original \$10; 220 pp.

Here is the perfect gift for interested, but uninformed, friends and relatives of gays and lesbians! It's also an excellent starting volume for young people not yet clear about their sexual orientation or just curious about homosexuality.

It's not the author's fault that so many questions about homosexuals must be answered with "some do and some don't" or "some are and some aren't." Other chapters, on homosexual parenting and on religion, for example, present basic information sensitively but without the "all gays and lesbians are wonderful" attitudes found in some works about homosexuality.

Most readers will come away from the book with more than new knowledge. They'll have increased comfort with homosexuality and be more aware that "family values" are not the exclusive province of the straight world.